







Slaves

550

Mr. X was born in Bulgaria, 1891, of fairly well-off parents who treated him cruelly and from whom he ran away at the age of 10. He supported himself at various unpleasant ill-paid jobs until, four years later he was "discovered" by an actress who gave him the job of man-of-all-work, messenger boy, and so on. He saved money from this, and, he says, stole small trinkets occasionally and started to wander again having adventures of a disagreeable or raucous type in small towns all over Europe. He stayed away from large cities from fear of greater strength & cunning in the under-worlds of the more sophisticated parts.

He started painting when he struck up a friendship with some artists living in the same house as his, soon acquiring a passion for this art, although very little technique. From 1909-1914 he learned the making of furniture, marrying his present wife during this time and leaving for America at the first reverberations of war.

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wit, story-telling, the painting of "modern" pictures, or in his business, they came to San Francisco two years ago, thinking it an easier town to "get by" in.

He is now attempting to sell furniture to retail shops up and down the west coast for a large company, his wife and children living on a small farm ten miles south of here. He is very unhappy, having been frustrated in all directions. Seldom does he have time to paint and when he does I think he suspects himself of painting badly. He has a violent urge, also, to make money, suspecting himself of stupidity because he cannot, although he is very articulate about the present economic world system and knows very well how all his fellow-workers are alike frustrated. Because of his artistic leanings, perhaps, he makes a particular case of himself even telling how his wife does not love him, how no woman has ever loved him, how he has been damned from birth.

This man has an interesting personality when he is not in the throes of self-pity. He has power, but does not know how to direct it, a typical product of our modern times



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